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when our boats grounded in the mud, at a place where any communication with the banks was impracticable in consequence of the mud.

It was then about three o'clock in the afternoon, nevertheless we had to await midnight before the boats were again afloat. I regretted that even by the danger of losing the companionship of my fellow-travellers I had not remained at wat Pohoh, for, although their boat was only a couple of hundred yards in advance, we could not communicate with each other.

I arrived at the Consulate in the morning of the 12th of May, at half-past 4, it having taken us more than four hours to make a distance of about three miles, the time having been principally employed in making our way through a similar phalanx of market-boats to those by which we were obstructed on the former occasion.

Notwithstanding the indisposition of which I suffered during the latter days of my stay at Pechaburri, which in some degree marred my pleasure, I enjoyed the trip so much that I shall endeavour to return with more time and a better stock of health at my disposal.

XXIII.—*Narrative of a Journey in the Interior of Japan, Ascent of Fusi-yama, and Visit to the Hot Sulphur-Baths of Atami, in 1860.* By RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, Esq., C.B., F.R.G.S., Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.

Read, May 13, 1861.

THE empire of Japan has so long been a sealed book to the traveller, and still continues so effectually closed to all except a few privileged Europeans residing as diplomatic agents at the court of the Tycoon, that a short narrative of a journey into the interior, in the autumn of last year, may not be unacceptable to the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society. Not only was the sacred mountain of Fusi-yama, so celebrated in Japanese story, ascended to its summit, some 14,000 feet above the level of the sea—and hitherto untrodden, so far as is known, by European foot,—but the whole route over the mountain-range of Hakoni was explored at leisure for the first time. The botany of this region was only partially known by the descriptions of Kämpfer and Thunburg, who traversed them (shut up for the most part in their norimons) upon two or three occasions on their way to and from the capital, when the Dutch factory sent their triennial tribute to court. Subjects of study to the botanist and geologist abounded in the field of Nature, and the student of life and manners could not fail to find much as

interesting among a people so singularly secluded from all contact with the outer world, as the Japanese have been during the last two centuries. There was much that was new and suggestive. Perhaps no people of the present day have excited so strong an interest; and enhanced as this may have been by the difficulty of gratifying any legitimate curiosity, it has certainly not owed its origin to this cause alone. The partial glimpses obtained by the Dutch, in their periodical journeys to the capital, of the civilization the Japanese had attained by their own unaided efforts, and of the elaborate if not perfect system organised for the orderly government of a country teeming with a population entirely self-sufficing, were all the more tantalizing that they presented to the mind problems, social, moral, and political, of the highest interest, without furnishing the needful data for their satisfactory solution. That a people should have attained a state of civilization, rivalling, in many of the arts of life and government, that of the most advanced nations of Europe—not only in spite of their utter isolation, but, according to their own opinion, by reason of such seclusion, and without a desire to change this condition for any other—was itself a great problem. How this should come to pass, with evidences of great material wealth and national prosperity, founded on the most exclusive policy ever conceived, and carried out, century after century, with unflinching constancy and completeness, was a problem for the political economist to solve.

Taiko-Sama, who died in 1590, after shattering the power of the great feudatories and all those independent princes who threatened, by their possessions and great individual force, to prevent firm union under his rule, laid a new foundation for the present edifice. But unless the material well-being of the nation had been well cared for at the same time, though under stereotyped forms of an unvarying character, and to the exclusion of all save a small privileged class from political power or action, it could hardly have endured so long. The empire which Taiko founded, in spirit as in outward forms, has remained to this day as he left it, and, for aught we know, is as firmly rooted in the habits and affections of the people as any form of government or dynasty in the Western world.

But many other questions not less interesting are suggested by the present state and the past history of Japan, and some especially perplexing to the political economist. This mixture of the Asiatic type of permanence, with its polygamy and idolatry, as these flourished in the days of the patriarchs—and, if not a progressive civilization, an aptitude for progress in the nation which is altogether European—seem alike unique in the history of a people since ancient Greece furnished a type of an Asiatic origin, with an equal capacity for war and the arts of peace, and a mental development

found only in nations of European stock. The spirit of national independence and haughty pride, natural perhaps to islanders who have never been conquered, while separated only by a narrow sea from the vast empire of a Tamerlane and Genghis Khan—the latter of whom they defied in his strength—is still a leading feature at this day. Strange in its development, chiefly because observable side by side with a thoroughly Asiatic servility in the individual whose knees do duty for his feet, and who, in the presence of a superior in rank, lays his forehead in the dust without reluctance, and shows his respect by going upon all fours or sitting on his heels, as only Chinese and Japanese can, indeed remind one of some of their own puzzles, in which they naturally enough perhaps excel, where the most contradictory and impossible conditions are imposed upon the unfortunate who seeks to evoke a definite result out of a seeming heterogeneous combination of things having no affinity or proper relation to each other.

Nature seems to have taken the part of the Japanese against the political economist, for certainly within the narrow limits of this little group of islands, not larger in area than Great Britain and Ireland, and at least as populous, everything they really want or desire is produced. The rice, sugar, cotton, and tobacco of the tropics—the silk, tea, and oranges of the less torrid zones—the wheat, potato, and grape of the temperate latitudes, all are here; and over the surface of their hills and valleys, where plenty fills the lap of the peasant with agricultural produce, the pine, the cedar, and the oak flourish luxuriantly, and clothe his mountains with a beauty of their own, unique in its character, intermingled as these are with the Eastern palm, the banana and the bamboo. In other climes, where Nature is bounteous in her gifts, it has generally been found that man forgets to labour, and sinks into effeminacy and sloth; but in this country of paradoxes the universal experience is reversed. A more laborious, patient, or industrious people nowhere exists. The most sterile and ungrateful soil was never blessed, under a stern law of compulsion and necessity, with a more painstaking race.

Luxuriance and variety in the products of nature would seem naturally to foster a certain tendency to luxury in the habits of the people, especially where landed estates and accumulated wealth exist, to be inherited by a large and privileged class, to be transmitted from generation to generation; but here the premises exist and the conclusions are different. From the highest to the lowest a marvellous simplicity is to be observed in their habits, and they pride themselves upon it as the best guarantee against lavish waste and its consequence, abject want. No present is ever given, without being accompanied by a piece of dried fish or seaweed—such as I send with this paper, just as I received it from the head priest of

Omio—to remind the receiver that they were once a race of simple fishermen, and by frugality and temperance became a great nation. Hence, between the Daimio, with 10,000 retainers at his back, and a revenue of a million *kokoos*, or measures of rice (their ordinary mode of estimating revenue), and the peasant or artisan, who earns his two *tempos* or sixpence a-day, there is probably less difference in all the essential conditions of their material existence than in any other country where civilization has massed a people in cities and towns. Rich and poor alike dispense, by habit and by choice, with all furniture, which is to them but an encumbrance and superfluity. Tables, chairs, sofas, bedsteads, all are banished. A Japanese house consists of a variable number of rooms, the walls papered, the floor matted; a hole in the centre of the sitting-room for the poorer classes supplies a grate, in which a little charcoal is burned, while above a kettle is suspended for the *pot au feu* when needed, and in the cupboard a few cotton quilted counterpanes at night supply them with beds and coverings in one. A few lacquer and china cups, and a tray or two with a number of saucers and as many dishes, constitute the whole furniture and household goods of a Japanese establishment. Their clothing consists, in like manner, of a cotton-gown and trousers or petticoat, of fashion strictly regulated by law and custom; their food of a bowl of rice, with some stewed fish and pickled vegetables, seasoned with soy made from their own beans. Now, between the richest and the poorest, the only essential difference consists in the size and number of the rooms or elegance of the papering, and the addition of a lacquer-stand for the swords of the chief of the house. Silk and gauze take the place of cotton in the clothing. The rice may be of somewhat finer quality, and the lacquer or porcelain more precious; but the meal and mode of life are essentially the same. Perhaps we have here one of the elements of the absence of discontent in the mass, and peculiarly stationary character of their government and institutions. With Europeans, the acquisition of wealth ever seems to prompt the possessors to devise new means of enjoyment, and hence a restless and perpetual desire for change and novelty, which always produces a violent contrast between the very rich and poor. Nothing of the kind exists here. As their fathers lived and died, so are they content to live and die. The schoolmaster, who so often leaves discontent behind him, has *not* “been abroad.” As they fed, amused, and clothed themselves, so do their descendants, with comparatively little distinction between rich and poor; and the last thing that seems to enter into the mind of a Japanese is to do anything different from what has been done before as regards his mode of life. They are trained in this habit of thought, and if it is not their original, it has certainly become their second nature. What can a man do with his wealth, then? He may have more houses and gardens—

more servants or retainers—make to himself more wants (although that is not easy on such a system); but he cannot live in more than one house at once, nor eat more dinners, nor wear more clothes; and the habits and sumptuary laws, which exclude all the vagaries of fashion, leave them no outlet for extravagance. After all, Balzac was quite right when he said that even Napoleon, with all the means once at his command, could not exceed the limits of enjoyment his organization enabled him to absorb between the occiput and the soles of his feet any more than humbler men; and where these are limited by national custom and habit to the gratification of sense with domestic duties, it is difficult to multiply them. If wealth itself does not become a care and a burden, in accordance with the old Spanish proverb, “*Quien tien oriados tien cuidados*,” wealth can add but little to the happiness of a Japanese. The greatest marvel of all, perhaps, is the fact that this people, who ought to be sinking perceptibly in the scale of nations, are not following this course at all. Since Kæmpfer wrote of them, with such painstaking minuteness and general fidelity, now some 270 years ago, there is no sign or symptom of decay, or even of their having retrograded. As the population must have increased, it follows that production must also have kept pace, or where we now see plenty there would be misery. Have they found out the secret, more inconceivably impossible than the philosopher’s stone, of standing still and yet not deteriorating as a nation—neither advancing in a dangerous line of progress, nor retrograding on a still more perilous gradient of descent? The Chinese have striven after this secret two thousand years and more—nay, since Confucius lived, six hundred years before Christ, and inculcated the principle; but sorely have they missed their aim, going backward lamentably and perceptibly down into a state of disorganization and chaos. Not so the Japanese. Since Taiko Sama’s day, who died in 1590, we can trace no organic or fundamental change, outward or inward, in habits of thought or action—in government, laws, or institutions—in customs or language—nay, not even in costume! Yet are they in full vigour as a people. No signs are here, as in China everywhere, of decadence, disorder, and effete virility. Here no temples or public buildings are ever seen dilapidated and falling into decay; no canals blocked up by mud, no roads impassable. Signs of dilapidation are never permitted to appear even in private dwellings or property. There is not a hedge in the country-lanes that is not carefully clipped and looked to. Many may have little to spare; but, frugal and careful of small things, the peasant and the farmer seem alike to have nothing to fear from want. With such tangible results before us, wherever we turn, in this land of peace—an appearance of contentment among the masses and palpable signs of material prosperity everywhere, be their creed, their policy, or their political economy

what they may,—the European traveller cannot help feeling that certain results are achieved by this far-distant Eastern race in their long isolation, which the most advanced of Western nations would be glad to secure for themselves, could they but see the way. With all our advantages of Christian teaching, intellectual culture, advanced political economy, and statesmanship, we are yet immeasurably distant from the desired end. Such a nation must, at least, be worthy of careful study, and likely to reward the most patient observation.

In sitting down to give some account of my travels through a part of the interior of this kingdom last autumn, adding such commentary as a long residence may suggest, I have little hope of throwing light on many of the paradoxes and problems which the present aspect of Japan, taken in connection with what we know of its past history, must present to the mind of the least reflective; and perhaps even this train of reflections might have better been indulged in, if at all, at the end, rather than as a preface to the observations I wish to bring before the Society, on the social state and physical geography of the districts traversed. But as they arose spontaneously when contemplating my line of route, and the notes it supplied with a view to select such materials only as might prove most interesting, so may they perhaps serve to suggest a bearing or a meaning to many of the incidents of travel which might otherwise appear trivial or wholly uninteresting; and this is the more essential as I have no “hair-breadth ’scapes by land or flood” to relate, wherewith to enliven the plain narrative I have to give.

Various causes had delayed my departure from Yeddo (the capital of the Tycoon, rather than of Japan) until the Japanese ministers confidently predicted that it was too late to accomplish my proposed ascent of Fusi-yama. August was already over, and the first days of September were upon me while yet engaged in removing the obstacles raised by the ministers in the first instance, and admirably developed subsequently by their agents with that felicitous persistence and fertility of invention which if it does not always secure them success would, in a better cause, certainly deserve it. There are but two months in the year, usually—July and August—when the mountain is sufficiently free from snow to permit the ascent: so at least the Japanese, who go to this cloud-wrapped shrine of their gods in crowds every year, assert; and, from my own experience, I should judge it well-nigh impossible to make the ascent after much snow had fallen. But though they go in crowds, strangely enough, it is only the poorer classes. It is not considered consistent with the dignity of a daimio, or even an officer of any rank, to make the pilgrimage,—perhaps because too many of the greasy mob must unavoidably “come ’twixt the

wind and their nobility." Be this as it may, that was one of the objections strongly urged by the ministers. "It was not fitting in a person of the rank of a British Envoy to make the pilgrimage, limited by custom, if not by law, to the lower classes!" If it be asked why the ministers were so averse to my giving effect to a plain stipulation of treaties by which the head of a diplomatic mission is secured right of residence in the capital and the free right to travel all over the empire, I can only reply that there are many reasons apparent enough, but which may have been the most influential of these is quite another question. No doubt the whole policy of the existing rulers is to limit and restrict, as far as possible, all locomotion of foreigners and all intercourse with the natives commercial or social. The infiltration of European ideas, principles, and habits of thought, felt to be antagonistic and subversive of those heretofore prevalent, is not, in their opinion, a desirable consummation, and, so far as in them lies, it will be prevented. Of this I can have no doubt; and with this ever-present feeling and guiding principle it is not to be wondered at if they have from the beginning spared no effort to create impediments, and surround the foreign representatives especially, who by treaty and diplomatic usage could claim so much more latitude of action than any others, by a sort of *moral quarantine*. It has only been by a series of well-contested battles, in which much strategy has been displayed on the Japanese side, that it has been possible to secure any semblance of liberty in the capital, where, to say the truth, our presence was and is particularly unpalatable to all the ruling classes. It was first attempted to bar all travelling by land to the port at Kanagawa, some 16 miles distant. Then, under pressure of alarm at the danger of disaffected persons doing us personal injury, it was sought to confine the members of the several legations for an indefinite time ("until the country was more quiet") within the walls of the residences assigned them. To this day no Japanese of education or station can pass within the gates unless actually employed by the Government; nor, indeed, can any Japanese servant, workman, or merchant without a licence, for which, if they have anything to sell, a black-mail is levied. Despite all difficulties, this first attempt on the part of any foreign representative to make the treaty clause securing right of travel a *reality* succeeded, and on the 4th of September a party of eight Englishmen started from the British Consulate at Kanagawa, which being a day's journey on the road had been made the rendezvous. Besides the permanent staff of the legation, I had the advantage of being accompanied by Lieutenant Robinson of the Indian Navy, provided with instruments for the purpose of scientific observations, and a practical botanist in the person of Mr. Veitch, a son of the well-known nursery-

gardener in Chelsea. This I deemed especially fortunate, as Sir William Hooker had written to say it was an object of great interest to botanists to learn something precise of the mountain vegetation of Japan, and especially of Fusi-yama, of which absolutely nothing was known. I felt it no breach of treaty to attach temporarily to the legation such provisional members, nor did the Government take any exception, or attempt to limit in any way the number of my suite. Travelling in Japan, unless as a pedestrian and according to the fashion of the unprivileged classes of the Japanese, is not altogether a simple matter. Especially is it not so when a large party of Europeans go together, and intend to be away some weeks. Every additional unit added to the number involves transport and commissariat arrangements, which seem to increase not in arithmetical but in geometrical rates of progression. Accordingly, before I mounted myself, I saw, to my dismay, a seemingly endless line of baggage-animals and led horses issuing out of the gates, accompanied by their keepers, lengthened out by servants and followers of every possible denomination, who, under every imaginable pretext, had attached themselves to the party. The expedition had evidently risen in popular favour, once the obstacles of the authorities had been put aside. To make a pilgrimage to Fusi-yama is an act of virtue with the natives, to which deliverance from misfortune and sickness attaches; and an opportunity of doing this at my expense instead of their own, enjoying a vacation at the same time with good wages, was altogether too much to be resisted. Even the Government officials ordered to accompany me, and my most troublesome impediments, at last found out that I had chosen a "propitious" time for my expedition, and evinced the greatest alacrity when it became inevitable and their part of obstructors had been played out. So that it was perhaps fortunate, on the whole, that my commissariat did not take the proportions of an Indian detachment on a line of march. Although I had expressly stipulated for the absence of any parade, and desired to dispense with an accompanying escort, wishing, on all accounts, to travel as much as possible in a private capacity, the Government, declaring anxiety for my security along roads they persisted in considering dangerous, made the company of a certain number of officials inevitable. A vice-governor, three or four yaconins (officers of the Government, entitled to wear two swords), and of course an "ometsky," or spy, to watch them, if not me—more probably both—made up my escort. These all being gentlemen of a certain dignity, each had their norimons (the palanquin of Japan), with bearers and attendants, flag, umbrella, and spear bearers, who, added to others, made a cortège of at least a hundred persons, with more than thirty horses. As my eye followed them along the road, nearly as far as I could

see, I sighed involuntarily to think what I was undertaking, having had some experience of travelling in the East, both in its cares and costs, and under similar conditions of a large following. In truth, it had required some effort on my part to face the inevitable troubles, and, without a political object which I deemed of some importance, I should perhaps never have started. But it was a question whether the clause of the Treaty giving unrestricted right of travelling to foreign representatives residing in the capital was, like so many other stipulations, to be regarded as a dead letter to all practical purposes. It so happened that neither I nor any of my colleagues hitherto had found leisure or inclination to put it to a practical test and give it effect by undertaking any expedition. American, Dutch, and Russian agents had travelled, on more than one occasion, along the high road from Nagasaki or Hakodadi, on their way to and from the capital for purposes of negotiation, as the Dutch formerly to carry tribute. But a journey into the interior, undertaken for the avowed purpose of recreation and observation, and out of the beaten track, in the exercise of a treaty-right, was yet an unheard-of thing. The difficulties and obstacles I encountered, though not on the whole more than experience had led me to anticipate, were at least many and tiresome. Sometimes the pleas put forward for delay or abandonment were amusing. At first, it was the unsettled state of the country and the risk of venturing so far from the capital and seat of government. Then it was too late in the season,—nay, at certain times, the mountain opened in huge fissures and swallowed up the incautious traveller! Even when all hope of absolutely stopping me must have been lost, it was found a great “missouri,” or feast, was going on, and the roads would be filled with drunken and desperate characters, so that, at all events, “I must defer my departure a few days.” This conceded, the preparations went on; and it was somewhat remarkable that, from this moment, having made a good fight and been defeated, they seemed to accept the result as inevitable, and “ate their leek” with no bad grace after all. Indeed, from the hour of my leaving Yeddo to the day of my return, after a month’s absence, I met not only with no further obstruction, but, to all appearances, everything was done by the officials accompanying me and the Government at Yeddo to make my journey both pleasant and safe.

The prospect of fine scenery, change of air, and an experience of the sulphur spa of Atami, with a quiet sojourn by the sea-side—all of which were in the programme—might have been sufficient, but I wished especially to ascertain for myself whether there was any foundation for the never-failing assertion of the ministers, that the “country was in an unsettled state,” owing to the increased dearness of everything, caused by the sudden demands of foreign

trade ; I wished to have the opportunity of judging whether the alleged excitement and hostility towards foreigners, in consequence of the newly-contracted foreign relations and departure from the ancient policy of seclusion and isolation, did or did not exist away from the centre of government ; and this personal observation could alone supply while travelling leisurely through the country. It is true, I ran the risk of encountering disagreeable evidences of the power of the rulers of Japan to verify their own prophecies ; neither did I overlook the circumstance of such a journey offering a great temptation to convince me by facts of the accuracy of the conclusion they were so anxious to impress upon me,—namely, that such was the state of public feeling that our own safety, not less than that of the Government, required a modification of existing treaties, so far as the opening of additional ports was concerned. But these were risks to be deliberately incurred in view of the importance of obtaining some independent means of judgment and the chance of doing so which such an expedition far from the centre of government afforded. And I had heard so much of this potent hydra, which stood in the path of all advance, warning the foreigner off with threatening voice, that I was strongly moved to take a voyage of discovery in pursuit of some more tangible evidence of its existence than had yet been afforded me.

The route to Fusi-yama from Yeddo skirts the coast for some 50 miles, crossing here and there a peninsula. The Tocaïdo, a great high-road to the capital, winding along the coast from Nagasaki and other towns south of Yeddo, was open to us as far as Yosiwara. By this road all the daimios, whose territories lie in this direction, yearly travel to and from the Court for a forced residence of six months ; and the mountain-passes of Hakoni, through which it leads, are strictly guarded, to prevent arms being carried towards the capital, or wife or female child belonging to a daimio being smuggled out with him, as these remain hostages during his return to his territory. The day's journey for these magnates of the land, who travel with an immense retinue of retainers (sometimes several thousand), seldom exceeds 20 miles, and more generally 15 is the limit, or from 5 to 6 *re*, a measure of about 4700 yards, or between 2 and 3 miles. At the several towns where they usually halt there are a certain number of honjins, houses of entertainment, reserved especially for daimios and Tycoon's officers, where they put up for the night. These are generally kept by some servant or retainer of the lord of the district, who will either, as the innkeeper, supply the usual food from the kitchen attached, or the traveller's servants can prepare it or purchase it from a neighbouring inn for their master. These houses are generally spacious, clean, and empty ; furniture being looked upon as an unnecessary encumbrance. The clean matted

floor supplies at once a seat, a couch, and a table. Wadded counterpanes, and even mosquito-nets can generally be supplied for sleeping. A bath-room, sometimes two or three, with conveniences of every kind adjoining, may be invariably counted upon, and are models of cleanliness. In these respects the Japanese are in a condition to give lessons to Europe. We always found prepared, on our arrival at the house selected by the officer sent in advance, a bath of hot water and another of cold: the first to bathe in, and the second for cold douche, on stepping out, to brace up the relaxed fibres. The principal apartments are at what may strictly be termed the back of the house, situated, as this always is, between *cour et jardin*—the courtyard in-front and the garden at the back; and, whatever be the space allotted, a garden of some kind is always to be found. Though only a few square feet sometimes, there will still be a miniature imitation of a wilderness of dwarfed trees, rockwork, lake, and lawn. These are indispensable in all; and in some, where the space is less restricted and the vicinity to mountains aids the artist, there are cascades brought over ledges of rock, subterranean caves, with gold and silver fish passing in and out, and trees of every variety of hue and shape, including the pine, the yew, bamboo, and a long list of flowering shrubs, among which oranges and camelias are common. Immediately after arrival the landlord appears in full costume, and, prostrating himself with his head to the ground, felicitates himself on the honour of receiving so distinguished a guest, begs to receive your orders, and that you will be pleased to accept a humble offering at his hands, generally a little fruit, a few grapes, or oranges; occasionally two strings of eggs,—that is to say, a couple of rows of these, curiously twisted and packed into a rope of fine straw. Due thanks having been given, he disappears, and you see no more of him or his servants, if, as usually happens, the guests bring their own and do not require help, until the foot is in the stirrup, when he makes another formal salutation, with parting thanks and good wishes. I mention these details now, because once given they apply to the whole journey: the house and garden may be a little larger or smaller; the paper on the walls and screens which divide the room a little fresher or dingier, but all the essential features are stereotyped from one end of the kingdom to the other. I was frequently puzzled, at a few days' interval, to tell whether I had been in the same quarters before or not, there is so little to individualise either the landlord or his accommodation.

At last we were fairly on our way and our pilgrimage to the far-famed Fusi-yama—"Mons excelsus et singularis," as Kämpfer describes it, "which in beauty, perhaps, hath not its equal." It may be seen from Yeddo, a distance of some 80 miles, on a bright

summer evening, lifting its head high into the clouds, the western sun setting behind it and making a screen of gold, on which its purple mass stands out in bold relief; or early in the morning, its glistening cone of snow tipped with the rays of the rising orb; and in either aspect it is certainly both singular and picturesque, springing abruptly from a broad base into an almost perfect cone, truncated only at the extreme pinnacle and towering far above all the surrounding hills. To the Japanese, who are anything but cosmopolitan, it may well be the "matchless;" for which, as Kämpfer goes on to say, "Poets cannot find words, nor painters skill and colours, sufficient to represent the mountain as they think it deserves."

Our route is pretty accurately laid down in the rough tracing sent herewith of a native map, which, for want of tracing-paper, has been drawn on one of the Japanese oil-paper cloaks we purchased on the way. But I also forward a native map of the four districts, in one of which is Fusi-yama. During the first day, the road lay over a succession of hills, of no great height, but from whence a fine view was obtained over the cultivated valleys on either side, with a background of mountains to the westward, among which Fusi (yama being merely the Japanese for "mountain" or "hill") soars conspicuous in solitary grandeur. We passed through many large villages, and the town of Totsooka, where we halted for breakfast. The second day carried us over a plain skirting the sea from Foodisawa to Odawara, before reaching which we had to cross the river Saki; and some distance from the entrance of the latter place a guard of honour, sent to meet the party by the daimio of the territory, preceded us into the town. Sakikawa (kawa, river) is nearly as celebrated in Japanese art and story as Fusi-yama itself, although less frequently the ornament of teacups or cabinets. I send herewith a few rude illustrations of both, which may further serve to show that the lithochrome process, so recently brought into perfection with us, has long been familiar to them in its ruder forms. This river descends abruptly from the neighbouring hills, which lie at no great distance, and divides into two branches as it approaches the sea, spreading wide across a pebbly bottom. It appears to be subject to such sudden freshes in wet weather and on the melting of the snows, and such increase of violence as well as width, as it rushes over its flat bed, that across one of the branches it has been found impossible to maintain a bridge. The consequence is, that lying across the main road to and from the capital, a large body of porters—strong, brawny men, innocent of all drapery except a loin-cloth—are always in attendance to carry the travellers across: the commoner sort on their shoulders pickaback; the dignitaries, male and female, on short platforms, borne by six men, who are

linked together by their arms crossed over each other's shoulders, for greater steadiness, of which a picture will also be found among the specimens of native art. It would seem a tolerably lucrative monopoly. However, it has its drawbacks: for they are made responsible for the safety of their passengers, and if any accident happens to their burdens they have nothing left but to drown with them, for no excuses are taken! If railroads could only be placed under the same system, excursion trains might perhaps become safe. Accidents are, at all events, unknown here; partly, no doubt, because when the waters swell, these experienced men at the ford, in view of their responsibility, refuse the passage; and it occasionally happens that travellers on each side are detained several days, looking disconsolately at each other or the opposite banks. This interruption of all communication, as might be anticipated, is a great inconvenience, and sometimes leads to serious consequences, of which there had been only recently an example. When the Gotiro (the regent of the kingdom) was slain in the streets of Yeddo, a few months ago, by a band of the Prince of Meto's men, who carved their way, sword in hand, through his retinue, and hacked his head off as he sat helpless in his norimon—it is said some of his own vassals in the country had got wind of the plot against his life and followed sharp on the heels of the conspirators; there was a day's interval between them, however, and in that day the river became impassable, to their despair. Life and death were hanging on their speed, but their road was stopped by this impassable ford, and when they reached Yeddo the catastrophe which their warning might have averted was consummated, and their prince had been slain.

We were more fortunate, and our stout porters carried us safely across without demur, though the water was surging around their hips in many places, but they seemed to know perfectly where to pick their steps, and, taking us in a zigzag line up the stream, made their way without much difficulty. Our whole party was carried over for 11 *itchiboos*, about 15*s.*, a large sum in Japan, to be divided amongst some thirty men for a half-hour's work; but it is by no means certain this sum was paid to them. That was the amount charged to us: whether it reached their hands undiminished could not be ascertained, as the payment was necessarily made through the attendant officers, and there was at least a great probability of diminution on the way.

The entrance of such a cavalcade of foreigners was doubtless a great event in all the towns we passed through: in fact, the like could never have been seen before; and as each roadside village—and even the larger towns—generally consists of one long and seemingly endless street, the news of our approach spread as rapidly and unerringly as the message of an electric telegraph,

turning out the whole population as if by a simultaneous shock—men, women, and children, clothed and nude, dogs, poultry, and cats. I think at Odawara no living thing could have been left inside. Such a waving sea of heads seemed to bar our passage that I began to congratulate myself (as we had outstripped all our own people) that my unknown benefactor the daimio had so courteously supplied me with an escort. I felt some curiosity as to the mode they would take to open a way through the dense mass of living bodies and excited heads, which looked all the more formidable the nearer we approached. My guides, however, seemed perfectly unembarrassed, and well they might be: for when within a few steps of the foremost ranks there was a wave of the fan and a single word of command, *Sh'—tāniriō* (kneel down), when, as if by magic, a wide path was opened and every head dropped, the body disappearing, in some marvellous way, behind the legs and knees of its owner.

During both these days, which brought us to the foot of the Hakoni range of mountains, rising some 7000 feet above the sea, nothing could exceed the beauty of the road, generally consisting of a fine avenue of smooth gravel, through a succession of fertile plains and valleys, where millet, buck-wheat, and rice were all giving promise of rich harvest. The oligarchic despotism, strongly intertwined with roots of feudalism, perpetually recalls the once powerful Government of Venice, with its strong-handed nobles, its secret Council of ten dark, dread inquisitors, and its Doge at the head, bearer of a phantom sceptre—only here there are two such doges instead of one, for the Mikado (fancifully described by Europeans as the spiritual Emperor, simply because he is not allowed to meddle with any temporal affairs) is something less than a doge, who had a part to play in State pageants—while the Tycoon or Saigoun, as he has generally been called, originally the Mikado's generalissimo, then his supplanter, as hereditary chief of the executive, is now by a sort of retributive justice reduced to precisely the same helpless condition as his suzerain: both are shut up within their castle moats—too sacred to be allowed to mingle in the common affairs of State—puppets in the hands of the more puissant feudatories, who daily go through the form of receiving orders, which they alone dictate. Nevertheless, if apart from all theories of government we look at the results—forget that there is no universal suffrage, no liberty of the press or of speech, but a system of universal espionage instead, with Draconic laws, often ruthlessly executed, and wander among the smiling valleys, rich with varied produce, watch the careless freedom of the labourers as they return to their villages and homesteads, as happy looking as any in Great Britain—we hesitate to characterize the Government as bad. Greater evidences may be seen in the British Isles any day of the

year, of misery, destitution, and discontent, than I have yet been able to discover in Japan during a long residence. If any signs of mutation or trouble appear in her political horizon, the ruling classes *point with a significant gest to the date of foreign treaties as the beginning of troubles.* Isolation from the rest of the world left them nothing to desire; free intercourse and trade threatens them with a participation in all the miseries, mutations, and political struggles from which they have continued so long exempt. This is undoubtedly the prevailing feeling and opinion of the present Government and the body of daimios generally—all, in a word, who have any voice or action in Japan; *they see nothing but evil in the conjuncture which has brought Western Powers to their shores, and opened Japanese ports to foreign trade.*

From Odawara to Missima the road lies through the mountain passes of Hakoni, which are situated very near the summit of the range, a distance of nearly 7 leagues of as rough mountain-roads as can well be conceived. Many are but watercourses filled with fragments of rocks for paving-stones, over which it was quite impossible to ride; even with the advantage of the straw shoes of the country, which with our ironshod horses were found indispensable, it was difficult work for the “bettos” (grooms) to lead them safely across the boulders, without the encumbrance of a rider, and several of them had falls. It is almost one continual ascent, too, which renders it slow as well as laborious work to make much progress. But the scenery would amply repay any fatigue of body. There was much to remind a Swiss traveller of the Obërland in parts, especially the descent by Lauterbrunnen. High wooded hills, where the pine predominated, were here; fresh green valleys, and a mountain-stream winding through the fields at the bottom: but it is less grand in its principal features. Here are no bare rocks and high-peaked mountains, with their eternal glaciers and mantle of snow; fewer cascades are to be seen leaping over the precipitous rocks in a sheer descent of a thousand feet. The Scheideck and Wetterhorn, with its bare walls towering to the sky, are wanting, nor is there any rival in all the mountain-range of Hakoni to the Jungfrau, with its soaring pinnacle and vast expanse of snow and glacier. The giants of the Bernese chain, it must be confessed, fling into the shade anything to be seen in Japan. But if its scenery may not compete with the Alps in sublimity, there is in lieu far greater variety and richness of vegetation. Here the Scotch fir and the pine mingle high up the mountain sides with the bamboo's light and graceful foliage and the Cryptomeria, which for the first time I saw in its glory as timber. In our descent to the lake of Hakoni, on the summit of the pass, we came upon a fine avenue of these, several measuring in girth, 3 feet from the ground, from 14 to 16 feet, and standing upwards of 150 feet

high. The wild hydrangia, with its large flower-clusters, black, blue, and white, covered the banks, side by side with the unpretending Scotch thistle. From the valleys to the highest summits every hill and mountain presented one dense mass of luxuriant trees and shrubs. The oak, the maple, the beech, the lime, the alder, and the chestnut, all were here, and in rich autumnal tints. The botanist returned laden with many new ferns and other specimens of interest. The *Thuyopsis dolabrata*, described by Thunberg, and of which the only specimen in England was, I believe, until lately in the gardens of Mr. Veitch, I looked for with great interest, but must confess I was disappointed in the effect of the tree. Thunberg was so enthusiastic in his admiration, that perhaps disappointment was inevitable. It is a fine pine, and with its silver lining, unlike in this and other respects any in Europe, but still scarcely calculated to throw any but a botanist escaping from a sea-girt prison and the first discoverer into extacies. I have recently sent several specimens in Ward's cases to the Royal Gardens at Kew and Windsor, and one a variegated species, not before described, I believe. It was found in the monastery of *Omia*, at the foot of Fusi-yama, and immediately secured, "for a consideration," from its proprietor, the superior. On my return to Yeddo, however, I found many others of the same kind; and it has been observed that there is a great disposition in all the vegetation of Japan for plants to become variegated. That I may not fatigue the Society, however, with a long enumeration of plants and mere botanical names, I send, by way of appendix, some detailed notes and a list of all the species observed throughout the expedition, which Mr. Veitch made out from day to day, and was good enough to copy for my use.

After a three hours' toilsome ascent we reached Yomotz, a little hamlet buried in the mountains, and clustered round some hot saline springs. The common calamity of the country had befallen the villagers, in a fire, from the ashes of which they had only partially been able to build up their houses anew, though, as the only materials are wood and mud, the process is neither slow nor costly. We made a very short stay as the clouds threatened rain, and we had still four hours' journey before us even to reach the lake and village of Hakoni, little more than half-way to Missima, in the plain beyond the pass, whither we were bound for the night. A young member of the party, however, had profited by the interval to plunge into one of the saline baths, and came out even more quickly than he entered, satisfied that a Japanese skin must be much more tolerant of heat than the Caucasian's, for he emerged in appearance like a lobster, and feeling much as that martyr to gastronomy may be supposed to experience before all feeling is boiled out of him.

There seemed to be several sources with a saline taste, and the

Japanese, who are a race of bathers, we were informed came from great distances to these baths. They rival, indeed, the ancient Romans in their love for every form of mineral bath, and for the use of alternating hot and cold water and steam: it is the one great luxury to which they devote daily one, two, or more hours of their time, the two sexes mingling promiscuously without any kind of clothing, and also it must be said without any appearance of embarrassment or sense of immodesty. They are the common resorts of all the lower classes and the retainers of the daimios. The bath-house is, in truth, an important institution in Japan: it is, what the baths were to the ancients and the café is to a Frenchman, the grand lounge. Towards the close of the day and far into the night, in passing along the streets of Yeddo, or any other large town on a summer evening, at every thirty steps you come to a bath-house. You know of their vicinity by the lights streaming through open doors and windows, and the hum of many voices, base and tenor, in full chorus of conversation. On coming opposite, you see two or three hundred nude figures of both sexes moving about, divided only nominally by a line of pillars, although each keeps to his or her side, while a lively interchange of salutations and conversation is going on between the opposite sides and sexes: and here all the gossip of the neighbourhood and town is no doubt ventilated. No one is so poor that he cannot secure a bath—no one so wretched that this luxury, at least, may not be his,—and here, if they have any cares, they seem to forget them all in the streaming atmosphere of the very oddest assemblage that can well be conceived. In the primitive state of our first parents as regards covering, and, like them, perfectly free from either reproach or shame, they seem indeed perfectly unconscious, under the sanctions of national custom, of anything worthy of attention or remark, much less of censure or condemnation.

The rain began to descend as we left the baths of Yomotz, and before we reached the guarded barrier at the entrance of the Pass we were all thoroughly drenched and tired. As there was a good honjen just outside the barrier, and picturesquely situated at the edge of the lake, all thought of proceeding further until the next day was given up, and Lieut. Robinson set to work, to the infinite astonishment of some native attendants, to boil his thermometer—in other words, to ascertain the height of the lake above the sea, which he duly reported to be 6250 feet. The water boiled at a temperature of 198°, and the aneroid fell to 27·90. The lake itself is a fine sheet of water, surrounded by hills, and tradition says that it fills the extinct crater of a volcano. I was very sorry that no boat could be found to enable us to try and get soundings. A boat there was, but in a decayed and leaky condition, which would have required moreover a large crew. Not a man, however, was

forthcoming. We were assured there were no fishermen on the spot, and we could only conclude that it was a precaution to prevent the possibility of any one crossing, to avoid the pass and its guard at each end. The hills which come steep down to the water's edge are covered with a coarse grass at the top, and the highest in the immediate vicinity I should not estimate at more than 300 or 500 feet, so near the summit of the range is the level of the lake at this part.

The following morning the rain had passed away, and we took the road to Missima in the plain, passing through the second barrier, where, as at the first, warned of our approach, no doubt, and the exemption from all search or detention, claimed as due to Her Majesty's envoy, the whole party were allowed to pass without question. Somewhat to our surprise we found an ascent of more than an hour before we reached the highest point beyond the pass. From thence a beautiful view was gained of the plain below, stretching away to the sea, dotted over with towns and hamlets, chiefly on the border of a winding stream fringed with evergreens. The view down the mountain side to the valley and sea beyond, basking in sunshine, was most picturesque in effect. Not only the fields were covered with crops waving to the harvest, but many of the hills to the right and left were also cultivated in terraces nearly to the summit; and where neither rice nor maize could be grown, timber, with luxuriant foliage of great variety, succeeded. We halted just before we made our last stage of descent at one of the wayside booths, which are to be met with everywhere along the main road in Japan at short distances, judging from that part of it along which we travelled. In these the poorest traveller, if he have but a few cash (integral parts of a farthing) may get a meal served with courtesy, which will keep him from exhaustion for many hours—a sweet potato steaming hot, a fried fish, and a cup of tea: or, if he seeks lighter diet, any fruit that is in season—a bunch of grapes or a slice of water-melon, red and luscious as it lies invitingly under the shade. If utterly destitute, without one cash, he may still have rest, a seat and a glass of pure fresh water, though it has often to be brought from a great distance. Surely this says much for the people, where such provision for the least wealthy and most needy classes is made, and, with a scanty profit, is so kindly extended to all. We halted here, partly tempted by a large melon, which turned its deep-red honeycomb towards us, and partly to ascend a natural platform by the side of the road, round which some seats were placed that the traveller might drink in refreshment by the eye as well as the palate. It overlooked the whole glorious plain, with the spurs of woody hills projecting in wavy lines, as though still washed by the sea, where very evidently it had once been fretting at their base, though now far removed, and in its place

fertile fields of emerald green were spread like a carpet. Here we ate, I should be afraid to say how many, beautiful slices of the great melon, rendered more delicious by two hours of hard walking, with a hot sun overhead—for the road so far had offered little inducement to ride, it was so rough and steep, whether in ascent or descent. The silver itzeboo (value about 1s. 6d.) which I gave in payment for what would not have been charged more than a tempo, or one-sixteenth of that moderate sum, was given in the mental hope that it might make some amends for many smaller profits. The exceeding cheapness of things whenever we happen, as in that case, to be out of reach of Government officers and escort, and to get at the real price, does not tend to improve the temper when, on descending to the plain from whence they are brought at great labour, we are told first that there are none, and then that a single melon will cost the price of sixteen on the hill! Yet this befell us at Missima, where we rested for the night. The people have many virtues; but a long experience has only brought to light in all the official class many vices, and that of plundering the foreigner unhappily consigned to their charge is among the first, and I fear the most incorrigible. As for mendacity, one does not expect impossibilities or miracles of virtue, especially in the East, and truth is one of the things only to be got at their hands by something near akin to a miracle. It is their business to conceal the truth from foreigners in all cases; thus they are given to romancing (not to use hard words) by vocation, a sense of duty, and I am afraid it must also be said, by taste and inveterate habit.

Missima is a large and populous town, and the same dense crowds greeted our entrance as at Odiawara and every other considerable place. But the magic word in the mouth of the Daimio's officer never failed in its effect; nor did the escort ever fail us either, for a party had attended us on foot the whole way over the mountains, and only left us the next day, after seeing us safely out of the town. As we approached our next resting-place, Yosiwara, another of the "Seigneurs," in whose territory it lay, appeared to have been carefully apprised of our approach, and we found an escort a mile or two in advance, waiting to conduct us to our quarters. And the same attention was renewed everywhere throughout the journey. From Missima we had passed through the towns of Nûmadsu and Harra, each about a league apart, and plainly to be seen from the heights of Hakoni. From thence to Yosiwara, still on the plain, is about three leagues, and here we were to take our leave of the Tocaïdo, or great high road. The route to Fusi-yama here turns off, and leads by cross roads to Omio and Mûsiyâmă, two hamlets which are situated at the foot of the mountain, and where some important temples and monasteries are grouped. In the evening a deputation was announced from the

superior of the fraternity at Omio, sent to salute me, and convey a request that the temple might be my resting-place for the following night; with many flattering expressions, significant of the desire of their chief to have so distinguished an honour as to entertain the Minister of Great Britain; no one of such rank, foreigner or Japanese, having ever travelled to that region, with much more to the same effect. Considering that they had come a long day's journey on foot, through mud and rain, to offer me such hospitality, the least I could do was to assure them I would not fail, either in going or returning, to show that the attention was appreciated, and to take up my quarters with them. The three shaven bonzes, with sandalled feet, but swords in their belts, were then induced to raise their heads and bodies to something like an upright posture, and take their leave.

It had rained heavily nearly all day, and most of the party enveloped in extemporized *ponchas* and leggings, manufactured out of the oil-paper cloaks of the country (on one of which the tracing of the route will be found), and some with the still more common straw coats of the peasants, it is to be feared, presented rather an incongruous appearance, as they traversed both Nûmadsu and Harra, preceded by an escort of daimio's officers, and paced slowly through their interminably long streets. The road would otherwise have been very enjoyable; one continued avenue, bordered with cryptomeriæ—the cedar of Japan, as it has been not inaptly called, though not a cedar in reality. A loud roar of breakers reached the ear, softened by its passage through a narrow belt of pines which drew a scanty nourishment from the sand-dunes that separated us from the edge of the bay. Being as wet as it was well possible to be, instead of halting as intended for a mid-day meal and rest at Harra, we pushed on, to the great confusion and disgust of cooks, yaconins, and all the host of followers who never counted upon the possibility of a change in the order of march, and had already got in and begun to make themselves comfortable. I have no doubt comparisons, no way to our advantage, were drawn between us, with our independent and erratic proceedings, and a Japanese magnate, whose progress never exceeds three miles an hour, and who is therefore quite above sudden changes and a three-leagues ride through the pelting rain. We had not long been safely housed in Yosiwara, when signs of a coming tempest were evident; and about 10 o'clock at night a furious gale set in with torrents of rain, and soon showed by its veering round the compass, that a typhoon was sweeping its fatal circles along the coast. We all thought of the *Camilla* and her gallant crew, one of her Majesty's ships, which, according to all calculations, ought even then to be near Atami, at the entrance of the bay of Yeddo, where her commander, Captain Colville, was to call

on his way from Hakodadi. A sad foreboding came upon more than one, only too truly realized in the sequel. The *Camilla* left Hakodadi on the 2nd September, with one of the Government interpreters and a British merchant as passengers on board, and neither ship, commander, nor passengers, have ever been heard of since. Either in the storm of the 2nd, or this, she must have gone down with her freight of 130 men in the pride of their strength.

The next morning was still sufficiently boisterous to deter us from an early start. The aneroid had fallen to 29.50; but about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the baggage having been despatched on before, we started for Omio, the nearest of the temple monasteries, paid a short visit of ceremony and thanks, and pressed on to Músiyāmă, the last civilized place on our way. Great preparation had been made for the party; extra bath and stable accommodation run up; the inner sanctum of the temple itself, with its altar divided into two, and screened off, to give the minister a separate room; and the chief priest himself was so profoundly impressed with the dignity of his guests, that we began to wonder whether he would ever be induced to stand up on his feet again. A hot tub, and a cold douche after it, soon refreshed us all. I say a tub, for such it is; and I begin to admire the economy of space and other advantages it possesses over the long slipper-bath. About 4 feet deep, of slightly oval shape, and just long enough to let an adult sit down with his knees very close to his chest, as is the Japanese habitual mode, less water is required to cover the whole body, and less space for the bath. To many, at the end, a copper tub is attached, with a grating at the bottom, into which a handful of charcoal is thrown, and in an hour a hot bath is ready. Some such appliance as this would be a great comfort, and in sickness a blessing in many an English house, where the getting a hot bath in a sick-room is a work for the whole household. Attached will be found a section of one of these baths, to show how simple and easy the system is. In Italy a double copper cylinder, removable at pleasure, is used instead; and by either process great facilities may be gained in the most economical way. The Japanese indeed have a perfect genius for attaining the most useful ends, with the least expenditure of material, and by the simplest means. No small merit. For instance, at the various honjins where we stopped for the night, we should have been devoured by the mosquitoes, had the landlords not come to our rescue by the simplest of all contrivances. A mosquito-curtain, open at the bottom, made up in the shape of a parallelogram, is let down over the mat, 6 feet by 3, selected by the sleeper; a cord is run from each of the four upper corners (into which a sort of eyelet-hole has been worked), and four nails driven in at opposite sides of the room, enable a servant to suspend it.

Beneath this the persecuted martyr creeps, tucking the sides and ends under his cotton quilt or mattress, and he may then sleep undisturbed by anything that *flies*. So our hospitable superior had evidently tried his ingenuity to invent impromptu seats for Westerns, who cannot sit upon their heels like other men, or squat on their mats with their legs tucked under them either; and it was amusing to see by what simple means he had succeeded. Half-a-dozen small tubs, a plank nailed over each, and over that a cotton quilt doubled into a cushion—materials at hand and in daily use—and we were all seated like Christians, with a minimum of cost to our host. Unluckily the table only reached our knees when thus elevated; but no man can be equal to so many new exigences in travellers! So we lowered our bodies to the mats and used the stools for our elbows, realizing the Roman habit of eating reclining, and managed to eat and drink too without difficulty or grumbling.

The next morning anxious inquiries were made very early as to the weather, and the announcement that it was fine, and the ascent practicable, roused the whole party soon after daybreak. The horses were promptly saddled for the last stage up the lower slopes. Three martial-looking priests, Yoboos, were told off for our guides, and a few Yoliki—"strong men of the mountain"—took our railroad-wrappers and a few stores, in the shape of coffee, rice, and biscuit, wherewith to sustain us during the two days and nights to be occupied with ascent and return. At first our way lay through waving fields of corn, succeeded by a belt of high rank grass; but soon we entered the margin of the wood that clings round the base and creeps high up the side of the mountain, clothing the shoulders of the towering peak, like the shaggy mane of a lion, with majesty. At first we found trees of large growth, goodly timber, of the oak, the pine, and the beech, and soon came upon traces of the fury with which the typhoon had swept across. Many large trees had been broken short off, and others uprooted; one of these had been thrown right across our path, and compelled us either to scramble over or creep under its massive trunk. At Hachi-mondo we left the horses and the last trace of permanent habitations and the haunts of men. Soon after the wood became thinner and more stunted in growth, while the bark and birch took the place of the oak and pine. Just before we entered the forest-ground a lark rose on the wing—the first I have ever seen or heard in Japan—and filled the air with its glad song. As a general rule, it may be said of this country, so rarely gifted by Nature in nearly all else, that the birds have no song, the flowers no fragrance, the fruit and vegetables no savour or delicacy. It has been suggested, in respect to the fruit and vegetables, that this is the fault of the cultivator, who never seeks to improve or

change the original seed or stock. This may be so: but how account for the scentless flower and songless birds? Is it a part of the great system of compensation which everywhere pervades the universe? Certain it is, there exists a mutual adaptation of things here as elsewhere; for, going along the road, I found a peasant and his children devouring, with great gusto, a handful of plums, as hard as stones, and as green and sour as imagination can conceive. "You will make yourself ill, Nani!" observed my friend, with an incredulous air. "Oh, no! we eat a basketful every day, and find them excellent." It may safely be said they would puzzle the digestive powers of any other race, and one only concludes that the Japanese gastric juice must be specially adapted to such food. Before we left the wood-belt we had many stories of the wild animals to which it gave shelter—deer, wild boar, and horses by thousands! Some doubt was expressed as to the number of the latter, and an appeal made to the Japanese officer attached as interpreter. "Oh, certainly! quite true; only there are millions!" and nothing could shake his testimony. But this is not the first time we have observed the absence of all definite notions of number beyond a few hundreds. I am satisfied, when the Ministers were told we had exacted 8,000,000 taels of silver from the Chinese, that they merely knew we intended to convey the idea of having demanded a very heavy sum. Whatever may be the *feræ naturæ* in this region, there is, no doubt, a large area of jungle and forest to give cover. At Atami, later, we saw frequent traces of the boar. Deer must be plentiful also not far from Yeddo, since even to a foreigner the price of a large stag does not exceed 25s. We soon lost all trace of life, vegetable or animal; a solitary sparrow or two—the most universal of all birds, it would seem—alone flitted occasionally across our path, and tame, as are most birds in Japan,—a clear proof that they are little molested by man. Wild duck and teal float on the castle-moats at Yeddo and on the temple lakes in the vicinity of the city, which pay as little attention to the approach of any one as the most domestic barn-yard breed. So of wild geese and storks: for if some European dog, otherwise brought up, gets them on the wing by running in upon them, they merely fly across his master's vision, within half-gunshot, and settle down again a few yards off: a very hard case, it must be admitted, for a keen sportsman, who, under Japanese laws (or love of petty restrictions), is not allowed to pull a trigger; all efforts hitherto made to obtain the licence of the Government having entirely failed. In the winding ascent over the rubble and scoriæ of the mountain, which alone is seen after ascending about half-way, little huts or caves, as these resting-places are called, partly dug out of the side and roofed over to give refuge to the pilgrims, appeared. There are, I think, eleven

from Hachi-mondo to the summit, and they are generally from one to two milès asunder. In one of these we took up our quarters for the night and laid down our rugs, too tired to be very delicate; nevertheless, the cold and the occupants we found former pilgrims had left precluded much sleep. Daybreak was rather a relief, and, after a cup of hot coffee and a biscuit, we commenced the upper half of the ascent. The first part, after we had left the horses, had occupied about four hours in steady work, and we reached our sleeping-station a little before sunset. Lava and scorïæ everywhere around; the clouds sailing far below at our feet, and a vast panorama of hill and plain, bounded by the sea, stretched far away. We looked down upon the summits of the Hakoni range, being evidently far above their level, and could distinctly see the lake lying in one of the hollows. The last half of the ascent is by far the most arduous, growing more steep as each station is passed. The first rays of the sun just touched with a line of light the quiet waters of the Pacific, as they wash the coast, when we made our start. The first station seemed very near, and was reached within the hour. But each step now became more difficult; the path—if such the zigzag way be called which our guides took—often led directly over fragments of out-jutting rock, while the loose scorïæ prevented firm footing and added much to the fatigue. The air became more rarefied, and perceptibly affected the breathing. At last the third station was passed, and a strong effort carried us on to the fourth; the whole party by this time straggling at long intervals between the two. This was now the last between us and the summit. It did not seem so far; but a few figures on the edge of the crater unfortunately furnished a means of measurement, and they looked painfully diminutive. This last stage, more rough and precipitous than all preceding, had this further disadvantage—that it came after the fatigue of all the others. More than an hour's toil and frequent stoppage for breath, and rest to aching legs and spine were needed, and more than one felt very near the end of his strength before the last step placed the happy pilgrim on the top-most stone, and enabled him to look down the yawning crater. This is a great oval opening, with jagged lips, estimated by Lieutenant Robinson, with such means of measurement as he had, at about 1100 yards in length, with a mean width of 600, and probably about 350 in depth. Looking down on the other side, which had a northern aspect, there seemed a total absence of vegetation even on the lower levels. The rich country we had left was completely hid by a canopy of clouds drifting far below. Water boiled at 184° of Fahrenheit. The estimated height of the edge of the crater above the level of the sea was 13,977 feet, and the highest peak 14,177.

At our resting-place on the top of Fusi-yama the latitude was calculated $35^{\circ} 21' N.$; longitude $138^{\circ} 42' E.$; variation of compass at ditto $3^{\circ} 02' W.$; temperature of air in sun at noon 54° Fahrenheit.

The Japanese, who perform this pilgrimage, are generally dressed in white vestments, which, on the summit, are stamped with various seals and images by the priests located there during the season.

No information I was able to obtain of these various objects of reverence or worship was of sufficient interest to detain the Society. But they have been sent with a few words of explanation written upon them. As far as I could learn, a very holy man, the founder of the Sintoo religion, took up his residence on this mountain, and his spirit is still held to have influence to bestow health and various other blessings on those who make the pilgrimage. The volcano has long been extinct; the latest eruption recorded was in 1707, and the tradition is, that the mountain itself rose in a single night from the bowels of the earth—a lake of equal dimensions appearing in the same hour at Miaco. Specimens of the lava, scorice, &c., picked up on the summit, have been sent.

The time actually spent in toiling up the ascent was eight hours, and the descent was accomplished in little more than three. We slept two nights on the mountain, and had greatly to congratulate ourselves on the weather, having fallen upon the only two fine days out of six or seven bad, and encountered the typhoon while safe at the foot. As we descended on the last morning there was a thick Scotch mist which soon changed into a drenching rain. We only found patches of snow here and there, near the summit; but on our return to Yeddo, three weeks later, we saw it completely covered. We had thus succeeded in visiting the matchless mountain in the only interval of fine weather, before the setting in of winter would have made it impossible. The prediction of the Ministers, that we were too late, was thus very near indeed being verified. True, like many other prophets of evil, they did much to make it come to pass.

From Kanagawa I heard that when they were visited by the typhoon there, the report was circulated that it was a sign of the anger of the gods at the foreigner profaning the sacred precincts of their stormy home. We now made our way back to Missima, and from thence by a mountain-road across the spur of the Hakoni range towards the seacoast. We reached the secluded village and bay of Atami in the afternoon of the second day. The bay is deeply indented between two great promontories, and the gorge is continued back some two miles, rising in broken terraces to the highest ridges. Here the little village of some two or three hundred

houses lies buried in what seems a great caldron: one principal source or vent-hole is in the centre, and generally six times in the twenty-four hours an immense volume of steam and slightly sulphurous water is ejected; the former varies in temperature from 100° to 120° Fahrenheit, and the water about the same. The impetus or force with which the explosive action takes place, varies in different days, and the hours are not very regular. I have attached at the end the record I kept. There are many other vents in the village of less extent, and scattered over an area of several miles. The Japanese are not wholly ignorant of the sanatory properties of these mineral sources, but, until my visit, they had never used the steam for vapour-baths. I had a small building run up for that purpose near to the principal source, and left it for the benefit of my successors. In various parts of the village troughs were made, into which the villagers, men and women, might often be seen plunged up to their necks, and whiling away the time with conversation, while outside the doors of many of the houses smaller vents were used to heat the pot, and boil or steam their sweet potatoes. Two or three miles along the seacoast the waters make their way over a portion of the cliffs, forming a natural douche, under which I found an old woman seeking health, if not renovated youth, and a little higher up a sore-backed horse was being submitted to the same process. These waters are nearly tasteless, and not unlike those of Wildbad in the Black Forest.

I had no means of chemical analysis with me, but I should say the proportion of sulphur was very small, though distinctly perceptible in the steam or vapour. They are slightly aperient in effect. Here I remained, excellently put up at the principal honjin, kept for the daimios and their families, with a beautiful view from my balcony over the bay. The gorge, widening as it stretches backward into a valley about a mile in width, is under perfect cultivation, terraced with marvellous patience and skill, and growing rice chiefly, which they appear to cultivate of three different kinds; one, at least, a dry kind suited to elevated lands. It afforded a good opportunity of observing the village life of Japan, with a population composed of small cotters, farmers, and fishermen. The bay abounds in fish, some very curious. Mr. Gower, of Her Majesty's Legation, brought home one day a flat fish about the size of the palm, with long thread-like prolongations from the tail and fins, several inches in length, and another, hard as bone all over, with a thick gibbous head, which they call the horse-fish, also small, not more than three inches in length; for eating, mackerel and a sort of pomfret were abundant. Only rice and vegetables are grown in the valley. Nitre is found somewhere in the neighbourhood in considerable quantity, and forms an article of export, while a little manufactory of boxes, a sort of Tunbridge-

ware, is carried on in nearly every cottage, chiefly made out of the roots of the camphor and maple. They are wonderfully perfect in workmanship, though made with the roughest tools. Their lathe is of the most primitive kind; the wheel being turned by a boy, while the workman holds and fashions the wood into trays, circular boxes of great variety, saucers, egg-like nests of balls, cups, &c., all marvels of cheapness as well as ingenuity. The same things are sold at Yokohama, but at a profit of 100 per cent. at least. I should not omit to mention the existence of a paper manufactory here, and, as it was the property of the proprietor of the house, I had every facility for watching the whole process. The manufacture here, at least, consists entirely of the produce of bark of trees, with colouring matter introduced in the process. I could not ascertain the botanical character of the trees, for only the bark already peeled off is brought from the surrounding hills. But more than one plant of the growth of shrubs is employed; some for the fibrous quality, others for glutinous properties. The process is very simple, and requires no elaborate machinery. The bark is first steeped in water until thoroughly softened, it is then beaten with wooden mallets until reduced to a state of mash, it is then again macerated in water, and when finally brought into a pulpy and homogeneous state, any colouring matter desired is introduced, and the pulp thus prepared, and in a very liquid state, is poured over wire frames much as in England and dried. Some specimens of the paper I saw manufactured I will endeavour to send, if not by this mail by the next. Specimens of the bark were sent with the box despatched round the Cape. Strange to say, bamboo—the universal material of paper in China, although abundant here—is never employed. Rags but rarely. Profiting by this circumstance, the English merchants have been shipping large quantities for England. And at first they were “rag-cheap” and dirty withal, but no sooner did the Japanese understand that something like a steady demand might be found, than the price was immediately raised. Still, with the vast abundance of cotton rags, for which there seems to be little or no native demand, I should think Japan might become a permanent and valuable source of supply, at remunerative rates to the exporter. No country in the world surpasses Japan in the excellence of the manufacture, for all the purposes they require paper to be applied to, and no people have applied it to so many. In addition to the usual purposes of writing and packing, they make handkerchiefs of it, a vast class of *papier maché* articles, boxes, reticules, hats, tiles, and an equally numerous list of articles in imitation leather, of which last I send one or two specimens. A specimen of fossilized or petrified vegetable matter found here has been sent with the box. It is altogether as quiet, picturesque, and secluded a spot as could well be selected

for rest and recreation ; but there is one sad want, and that is, of roads or beach on which the visitor can either walk or ride. The beach is composed of large pebbles and shingle, upon which the waves of the Pacific break and roll with a reverberating sound heard through the whole valley. The roads, one across the range, and the other along the seacoast, both leading to Missima, and a third to Simoda, are all as bad, rough, and precipitous, as can well be conceived. But nothing can well exceed the beauty of the scenery by both routes to Missima. The road across the mountain-range from Missima, which we took on our way to Atami, was over a line of country full of grand and picturesque features ; wild downs, bare basaltic rocks often protruding from the sides of steep ravines, terraced hills and lovely valleys sloping down to the sea, with the usual luxuriance of foliage, marked the whole way. I have seen few countries in Europe or Asia possessing so many elements of richness and picturesque beauty combined as these islands may boast. Of the geological features I can give little information. The soil under cultivation in all the valleys seems to be similar with that observable in tracts of Central India, called "black" or "cotton soil : " a rich earth, the detritus of igneous rocks, further fertilized here, during a long succession of ages, by the application of the liquid manure from towns. Riding along the road the mould may be seen several feet in depth, richer looking than any garden mould, and without a stone. Indeed in all the adjacent country of the capital, more varied in form and character, and more beautiful in picturesque features than any capital I have seen can boast of, it is a saying that "stones and gold are equally scarce ; " yet, with all this apparent richness and careful culture, there is a sad deficiency of flavour and delicacy in everything it produces except rice, which I think the best in the world. Apples, plums, and peaches, are all plentiful, but indifferent, and never allowed to ripen on the trees ; but these may be seen trellised horizontally, and spreading over acres of ground. Their grapes and water-melons come to the greatest perfection. Pears, gooseberries, currants, pine-apples, and bananas, are all unknown, though they have the plant of the latter, and the persimmon produces well. The only rocks I have met with have either been of igneous character, basaltic, or granite, and a soft sandstone. A hard kind of slate also is to be seen occasionally. But the mountain regions are, no doubt, rich in mineral wealth ; gold, silver, iron, copper, lead and coal, all seem abundant, and are all nearly equally jealously guarded by Government, which holds that, as minerals cannot be reproduced, no generation has right to more than is required for its daily wants. If this be true, there is at least something disinterested and noble in the motive which refuses wealth at the cost of posterity.

When the ports were opened we found the relative value of gold and silver was as 1 to 3 only, instead of 1 to 15 or 16. Hence an unfortunate commencement to foreign relations, since a rush was made upon the gold coinage in exchange for silver by the first foreign settlers, which brought back to the Japanese the old days of Spanish and Portuguese spoliation, when they saw their gold shipped away by tons. It took six months of bitter experience to induce them to apply the only remedy, which was to establish the same relative rates of value as prevail over the rest of the world, but the mischief was done in the minds of the Japanese rulers.

They have evidently much to learn in mining. I visited the lead-mines at Hakodadi, which seemed rich in ore, but worked in the most primitive manner. The Governor asked with some interest if, from my knowledge of European mining, I thought improvements might be introduced; and I told him that, although my knowledge of the subject was very small, I had no doubt, and with a great increase of produce and ultimate reduction of expenditure; adding that now, with treaties of friendly character, there could be no difficulty in obtaining the services of competent Europeans. It has never led to anything, however. They are both jealous of introducing foreigners into their mines, and little disposed to pay the price of good service. I asked why no lead could be found for export, and he replied, it was all required by the Government; on expressing some surprise as to what the Government could want with lead, he observed, it was all required to make bullets for practice! I smiled at the naïveté of the reply, and remarked they must be very anxious to have proficient marksmen. But the same reluctance is observable in regard to all mineral produce, and can only be explained by the political economy already referred to; that it is a deposit in their hands not to be expended. It is probable they have good coal, but all that we have been able to get hitherto is very inferior, though bituminous. As applied to steam-power it is not equal to more than one-third its bulk of the best Welsh coal; and, moreover, it clinkers and fouds the furnaces to a most inconvenient extent. I have annexed a short report received from Lieutenant Robinson, upon the coal supplied his ship.

The climate in the centre island of Nipon is one of the finest in the world, but the winter at Hakodadi is long and severe. At Yeddo little snow lies on the ground, and from October to February of 1860 we had a succession of beautiful weather, although this last winter has been less favourable. The summer is short, and by no means oppressive. But it is a perilous coast to navigate, and frightful storms rage through the winter, with occasional typhoons in the autumn. Many ships have been lost since the ports were opened, and there is great necessity for a good survey of the whole eastern coast. I will attach to this paper an imperfect

meteorological register, kept at Yeddo during the past year ; by which it will be seen the maximum heat was 91° , the minimum temperature 28° . The range of the heat of the summer months is from 70° to 90° , and 80° may be taken as an average ; and of cold in the winter, the range is from 28° to 60° , with an average of 50° . Between February, 1860, and February, 1861, there were 33 shocks of earthquakes at Yeddo. The climate, the soil, and the people are superior to any that I know in the East, and, but for certain drawbacks, it might be a most enviable place of residence even for Europeans. Its isolation from the rest of the world, which still continues to a great extent, we may hope will then gradually disappear ; but its stormy coasts are little likely to diminish their terrors, any more than its volcanoes promise rest to the crust of earth above, to which they impart periodical ague-fits with far too great frequency and intensity to make a residence either pleasant or safe. Lastly, the rulers of the land are in sad contrast to the people they govern. The latter are good-natured, patient, industrious, and willing to enter into the closest relations of amity and commerce ; while the governing classes look upon the introduction of the foreigner as a national calamity, boding nothing but ruin to themselves if not resisted in time. Hence many troubles, difficulties, and dangers ; for if life might be made nowhere in the East more pleasant than in Japan, it must in honesty be confessed there is no country where it is less secure, or made more intolerable by those who have both the will and the power to render it so. How long it may be before this great obstacle can be overcome it would be hazardous to predict, and equally profitless, perhaps, would it be to speculate on the many dangers which lie in our path. We can only hope that patience and forbearance, tempered with firmness, may meet its fair reward in the end ; and that Japan, as it was the last link wanting in the chain of civilization and Christianity round the earth from west to east, so it may be permitted to be the first and one exception in the world's experience, and be brought into close relationship with all the comity of Western nations, without either war or subjugation. That is the task on which we are now engaged ; and if the opening of Japan—for which we have to thank our enterprising cousins in America—be something too much like the opening of Pandora's box—one which brought many evils on the world—we must take for our comfort the reflection that here too, perhaps, Hope may be found at the bottom. At present the first series of evils—murky and ominous-looking—are only working off. After these the atmosphere may become clearer ; and, since the fatal lid *has* been opened, there seems to be nothing for it but to meet what comes with courage, and a constant purpose to do the best which circumstances will admit with a worthy end in view.

If these interposing political difficulties can be got over, ample evidence has been gained of the capability of Japan to support and feed a large trade—one indeed only inferior to China, and far exceeding the proportions of size and population. The trade returns of Kanagawa for the year 1860, just completed, show a wonderful development of trade. Even irrespective of official interference, restrictions, and obstructions of every conceivable kind, the amount of trade for a port only opened to foreigners eighteen months is truly surprising. At first there was little or no demand for imports. The native dealers were ready to sell for money, but willing to buy nothing, unless such things as they had been accustomed to obtain from China, such as spelter, dyewoods, and a few medicines; but the vexed question of currency, and the exchange of hyaboos for dollars, together with the stoppage of business at Shanghae from the insurrectionary troubles—evils as they apparently were—worked for good in Japan, and materially helped to force both cotton and woollen manufactures into the market at remunerative prices, and soon a regular business was established at Kanagawa, especially in “camlets,” shirtings, chintzes, and American drills. From the last year’s experience, therefore, we may, as the British consul at the port suggests, very safely draw two important conclusions:—1st. That the Japanese are really in want of certain produce and manufactures superior to their own, or which they do not possess at all; and 2nd. That they are able to pay remunerative prices for them, provided an export trade flourishes. A total of 824,000*l.* worth of exports, by the official returns, appears as the declared value in 1860; but as these are calculated at 4*s.* 2*d.* per dollar, while the current rate was 5*s.*, and the declared value was undoubtedly from 20 to 25 per cent. below the invoice, nearly 50 per cent. may fairly be added on these two accounts, making the export upwards of 1,200,000*l.*—considerably more than Shanghae showed in 1844-5, the first years it was opened, although it now possesses a trade of some twenty millions sterling.

Nor is it unsatisfactory to find how large a proportion of this new trade has fallen to the share of the British. Although America presents peculiar advantages for a direct trade with Japan—seeing that passages from San Francisco to Kanagawa have been made in 35 days—yet, by reference to these returns, the direct trade with great Britain and its colonies will be seen to have taken the lead. Fifteen vessels arrived from the latter, and 28 took their departure for the same destinations; whereas American direct trade had but 6 arrivals and 5 departures, and the Dutch numbered but 2 of the first and 1 of the last. So we need have no fear of Great Britain holding her accustomed place in the commerce of the East, even in this new field, with long odds in favour of our

most enterprising rivals the Americans. For the larger development of the resources of trade here in Japan there only requires the neutrality of the Japanese ruling classes and Government; and if to this were added a bank for European and American credits, and a regular mail-service, with a good survey of the eastern coast, it might safely be predicted that within five years a trade, both export and import, only second to China, would be fully established, the main staple of which would be in some degree the same: tea and silk for exports, and cotton goods for imports. But in Japan there are other products more accessible and available, if the native Government would but allow the export; and there is a greater aptitude among the Japanese for variety of import articles than the stolid conceit of the Chinese and their slowness to learn will admit.

Notes on the Vegetable Productions of Japan, taken during a Ten Day's Journey into the Interior.

The vegetation of Japan is remarkable for the immense variety of trees and shrubs growing throughout the length and breadth of the land. Three-fourths of these may be said to be evergreens, giving the country almost as fresh an appearance during the winter months as in summer. The country travelled through during our trip is probably second to none other in point of general vegetation, from the lowest valley to the mountain summits one dense mass of luxuriant trees and shrubs. Trees of considerable dimensions are met with, consisting of pines, oaks, maples, &c. Others attaining a lesser size, viz., beech, lime, alder, chestnut, &c., give a pleasing variety of foliage. The main roads of Japan are planted, wherever practicable, with pine-avenues. These trees often attain a height of 150 to 180 feet, their upper branches forming a perfect covered archway. The splendid effect thus produced by miles of noble trees can scarcely be exaggerated. *Cryptomeria Japonica* (the cedar of Japan) must undoubtedly be placed as one of the finest trees found in Japan, if not the finest of all. It grows throughout the entire empire, attains a great height and circumference, and in point of beauty of growth is unsurpassed.

Amongst many splendid specimens met with, I noticed the following as being most striking:—

1. *September 6th.*—On the main road from Ha-too-jí-ku to Hakoni. An avenue of several miles in length. Three trees measured in succession were 15 ft., 14 ft. 6 in., 13 ft. 6 in. in circumference, at 3 ft. from the ground.

2. *September 14th.*—On the road from Missima to Atami we fell in with three noble specimens, standing singly in the midst of a small village; about 150 to 170 ft. high, and 16 ft. 6 in. in circumference, 3 ft. from the ground.

3. *September 14th.*—Near Atami we passed a forest, remarkable for the peculiar straight trunks of the trees. They had grown in close proximity to each other, and consequently lost the greater portion of their branches. The effect produced was very similar to that of an immense number of ships' masts.

Mount Hakoni, clothed to the summit with forests of *cryptomeria japonica*, *thyopsis dolobrata*, *thuyas*, *retinosporas*, &c.

A few of the most striking Trees, Shrubs, &c., met with during our Trip.

- Acer (maple), many species. Common.
 Asplenium fontanum?
 Asplenium, 3 or 4 species unknown.
 Abies leptolepis (larch). Mt. Fusi-yama.
 ,, firma, 100 to 120 ft. ,,
 ,, bifida, 90 to 100 ft. ,,
 ,, isuga, 60 to 70 ft. ,,
 Alnus glutinosa? (alder). The foot of Mount Fusi-yama and other parts.
 Aralia edulis. Near Atami.
 ,, Sieboldii. Com. in many parts.
 Aucuba japonica. Common.
 ,, ,, foliis variegatis.
 Azaleas. Splendid bushes; plentiful in all the forests at a low elevation.
 Benthamia japonica. Mount Hakoni.
 Berberis japonica. Seen throughout the whole journey.
 Broussonetia papyrifera. Planted on the road-sides.
 Camellia japonica. Splendid trees; common throughout the valleys.
 Cephalotaxus, sp. Mount Hakoni, resembling C. Fortunei.
 Cephalotaxus macrophylla. Common in the lowlands; not seen at a high elevation.
 Cephalotaxus, sp., with leaves very pointed and sharp at the points. Mount Fusi-yama.
 Citrus japonica. Com. in the valleys.
 Clematis, 2 or 3 sp., not seen in flower.
 Cryptomeria japonica. Seen everywhere in the valleys, and on Mount Hakoni at 7000 ft. elevation. Not found on Mount Fusi-yama.
 Cycas revoluta. Common in all temple gardens.
 Convolvulus major. Grown in every garden.
 Deutzia scabra. Common on hill-sides.
 Diervillea, 2 or 3 sp. On Mount Hakoni. Not seen in flower.
 Daphne japonica, foliis variegatis. Near Missima.
 Eriobotrya japonica. Omio.
 Fagus sylvatica? beech. Foot of Mount Fusi-yama and Mount Hakoni.
 Forsythia suspensa. Near Kanagawa.
 Hibiscus mutabilis? Single, purple and white, as well as double; common throughout the whole trip.
 Hydrangea japonica. Mount Hakoni.
 ,, bracteata. ,,
 ,, hirta. ,,
 Illicium religiosum. Near Odawara.
 ,, floridanum. ,,
 Indigofera, sp., 1 red, 1 white. Unknown. Near Numadz.
 Iris. Planted on the ridges of the thatched cottages.
 Juniperus, sp., 30 to 40 ft. Unknown. Atami.
 Laurus cinnamomea. Omio, and in most forests.
 Lilium, sp. Foot of Hakoni.
 Magnolia, sp. Mount Fusi-yama. Foliage similar to M. macrophylla.
 Orontium japonicum. Common throughout the woods. Variegated. Varieties grown in pots.
 Onoclea, new sp. Foot of Fusi-yama.
 Paulownia imperialis. Muriyama and other parts.
 Pernettya, sp. nova. Berries pink. Fusi-yama.
 Pinus massoniana. Common throughout Japan. The road-side avenues are formed of this pine.
 Pinus parviflora. Common on Mount Hakoni.
 Pittosporum tobira. A common shrub in the forests on the lowlands.
 Podocarpus macrophylla. Foot of Mount Hakoni; also near Kanagawa.
 Poinciana regia. Odawara.
 Quercus cuspidata. Common.
 ,, glabra. Near Hara.
 ,, sp. unknown. Large foliage. Common between Hakone and the foot of Fusi-yama.
 Retinospora obtusa, 30 to 40 ft. Common throughout our trip.
 Retinospora pisifera, 30 to 40 ft. Common.
 Rubus, sp. unknown. Foot of Mount Fusi-yama.
 Spiraea Thunbergii. Common in most valleys.
 Spiraea, sp. unknown. Fusi-yama.
 Scyadopytis verticillata. Found wild near Kanagawa. Cultivated at Atami.
 Smilax, sp. unknown. A common plant rambling over the mountain slopes.
 Thea Bohea, the tea-plant. Straggling bushes seen throughout our journey. Plantations near Omio.
 Thu-yopsis dolabrata. Forests on Mount Hakoni.
 Thu-yopsis dolabrata, variegata. Grown in the temple at Omio.
 Thuya pendula. Mount Hakoni.
 ,, orientalis. Foot of Mount Hakoni.
 Weigelia rosea. Foot of Fusi-yama.
 Weigelia, sp. nova. Foot of Fusi-yama.
 Wisteria juvenis. Rambling throughout the woods.
 Woodwardia japonica. On the slopes of Mount Hakoni.

Addenda.

- Adiantum, sp. nova. Mount Hakoni.
 Bambusa metake. Growing wild in the lowland forests.
 Bambusa metake, variegata. Cultivated in gardens.
 Buddlea, sp. Grown largely at the foot of Fusi-yama for the manufacture of paper.
 Chamærops excelsa. Commonly seen throughout the trip; also at Omio, at the foot of Fusi-yama.
 Corylus avellana? the hazel. On Fusi-yama.
 Castanea vesca. Near Messima.
 Euonymus Japonica. A common shrub.
 Funkia, 2 variegated sp., at the foot of Hakoni.
 Gardenia florida. Common throughout.
 „ „ radicans. Ditto.
 Ilex, sp. unknown; 10 to 12 ft. Mount Hakoni.
 Musa paradisiaca, the plantain. Muriyama and Missima.
 Nerium japonicum. Muriyama.

The Vegetation of Mount Fusi-yama.

- 14,000 ft.—No vegetation.
 12,000 ft.—One or two dwarf compositæ.
 8,000 ft.—Larch, Abies leptolepis, very stunted; 2 to 3 ft.
 6,000 ft.—Larch, Abies leptolepis; 30 to 40 ft. Pine forest, Abies firma, 90 to 100 ft.; Abies bifida, 70 to 80 ft.
 2,000 ft.—Abies isuga, 50 ft.
 Beech, alder, lime, hazel, &c.
 Grass and fern.

Notes on the Agricultural Crops and Vegetables of Japan.

The main crop of the country we passed through is rice, grown principally in low, marshy valleys, and irrigated in the same way as in China. In cases, however, where the land does not admit of irrigation, a species of rice is grown, which succeeds perfectly on dry soil. This latter crop is much less productive. Having both kinds at their disposal, the Japanese cultivate enormous quantities. Hills of considerable elevation are often terraced to the summit, producing a valuable crop, and giving the country a most picturesque appearance.

Two species of millet are grown largely; one about 3 to 4 ft. high, and another 5 to 6 ft. The former is sown either broad-cast or in drills, similar to European cornfields; the latter is transplanted in single rows, generally round the outer edges of the dwarf millet.

Egg-plant (*Solanum esculentum*) is largely grown for the sake of its fruit, which is much eaten.

Caladium esculentum, sweet potato, and ginger, are all considerably grown in the country we passed through.

We did not pass through any part of the cotton or tea producing countries, although occasional fields of the former, and shrubs of the latter, were met with.

All the vegetables of Japan are more or less flavourless. It would be a matter of considerable interest to ascertain the cause of this. From the little opportunity I have had of judging of the Japanese mode of cultivation, I consider the secret to be this—that they over-manure their growing crops, and thereby cause them to grow rank. In England similar instances may often be seen; for instance, a field of turnips over-manured runs away to leaf, and forms but a small stringy root.

A few of the Crops noticed in the Country we passed through.

Rice; two species.

Millet; two species.

Sweet potato (*Dioscorea batatas*).

Egg-plant (*Solanum esculentum*).

Caladium esculentum; the root, leaf, and stalk, eaten by the Japanese.

Indian corn, in small patches.

with variegated leaves. One patch only seen in the neighbourhood of Fusi-yama.

Beans; several kinds, both dwarf and running.

Peas; grown largely in fields.

Carrots, turnips, onions, pumpkins, cucumbers, gourds, and chilis, besides numerous other little things peculiar to Japanese taste.

The Fruits of Japan.

Nothing is more disappointing to a European visiting Japan, for the first time, than the scarcity and insipidness of its fruit. No country can be more favourably situated. The soil is very rich and productive, and the climate is all that can be desired. My experience will barely admit of my giving an opinion on the subject. I consider it arises chiefly from the fact that the Japanese take no pains to improve their fruit-trees; the same varieties have probably been grown year after year. I am further strengthened in this opinion by finding that one or two varieties of each kind only exists. Peaches, pears, grapes, &c., one kind only is grown, or if more, they are mere varieties of each other, one a little smaller or larger, but no difference in point of shape, colour, or flavour.

In no other way can I at present account for the dearth of fruit, and the inferior quality of what is produced, in a country like Japan. I feel confident that a few of the European improved varieties of fruits planted in Japan would prove that the soil and climate are well adapted to their growth, and that it is only cultivation and improvement of trees that are required to render Japanese fruit second to none.

Fruit met with.—Cherries, chestnuts, figs, grapes, oranges, melons, pears, plums, peaches, persimmon, and walnuts.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Robinson, H.M.S. Berenice, I.N., in reference to the Coal of Japan.

"The coal supplied H.M.S. *Berenice* at Nagasaki was a fourth-rate quality; if anything, inferior to the Australian and American coals supplied us at Hongkong from H.M. stores. It made much clinker and dirty ash, the fires requiring frequent dressing. We consumed on an average 23 tons a day, against 18 tons of good English steam-coal.

"The coal of Kanagawa is of a better quality in every respect; a better steaming coal, less dirty, and fires requiring less cleaning; the average consumption being 22 tons a day. Both coals should be shipped dry, for if stowed damp are liable to ignition. The coal of Hakodadi I have not seen."

Periods of Ebullition of the Sulphur-Baths at Atami.

16. (Day of arrival.) 10 P.M.

17. 6 A.M. (lasted $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); 11 A.M. (20 min.); 3 P.M. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ P.M. (15 min.); 7.40 P.M. ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.).

18. 6 A.M. (lasted $\frac{3}{4}$ hr.); 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. (1 hr.); 3 P.M. ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); 7 to 8 P.M., with short intervals; 12 P.M.

19. 4 A.M.; 6 A.M. (lasted 5 min.); $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$, with short intervals of inter-
mittence; $2\frac{1}{4}$ P.M. ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); 8 P.M. ($\frac{1}{4}$ hr.); 12 P.M.
20. 10 A.M. (lasted $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); $2\frac{1}{4}$ P.M. (1 hr.); 6 to 7 P.M., with short intervals.
21. 3 A.M.; 8 A.M. (lasted $\frac{1}{4}$ hr.); 9 to $10\frac{1}{2}$, with abatements; 3 to 4 P.M., ditto;
7 to 9 P.M., ditto.
22. 6 A.M. (lasted 1 hr.); 10 to 12 A.M., with intervals; 3 to 4 P.M., ditto;
7 to 9 P.M., ditto.
23. 6 A.M. (lasted $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 A.M., with intervals; 4 P.M.; $8\frac{1}{2}$ P.M.
24. 6 A.M. (lasted 1 hr.); 10 A.M. (1 hr.); 3·45 P.M., with great violence;
8 P.M. (1 hr.)
25. 6 A.M. (lasted $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); $10\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. (1 hr.); 3·15 P.M. (1 hr.); 8 P.M. (1 hr.);
12 P.M.
26. 3 A.M.; 6 A.M. (lasted $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); $9\frac{3}{4}$ P.M. ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.); 3 P.M.; 8 P.M. (1 hr.).
27. $5\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr.). Left Atami.

Note.—There is said to be an interval of rest either at new moon or full, and the landlord of the hoyen said he had kept a book for a long period, noting the ebullitions every day, which would show this. It could not be found at the moment, and was sent after me two or three weeks after my return to Yeddo; but it had all the appearance of having been made up merely to send me, and, with some experience how little trust can be placed in Japanese conscientiousness, I confess I put no faith in its authority or accuracy. The sources are said to show greater or less activity with ejection of steam and pumping of water at six periods in the 24 hours; at 6, 10, and 3 o'clock, twice repeated. But as will be seen by the few days' diary, there is considerable irregularity, although so many times each day, and at those hours more frequently than at any others.

APPENDIX.

XXIV.—*First Ascent of the Tian-Shan or Celestial Mountains, and Visit to the Upper Course of the Jaxartes or Syr-Daria, in 1857.* By P. P. SEMENOF, Fellow of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. (Translated from the Russian, by JOHN MICHELL, Esq.)

THE skeleton of the continent of Asia is formed by four gigantic and almost parallel mountain-ranges, severally known as the Altai-Sayan, the Tian-Shan, the Kuen-Lun, and Himalayan.

Only two of these systems—the most northerly or Altayan, and the most southerly or Himalayan—have as yet been explored, the former from Siberia by Russian men of science and travellers, the latter by English expeditions from India. The Tian-Shan and Kuen-Lun, situated in the interior of the largest continental mass of the terrestrial globe—the one in 42° , the other in 36° of northern latitude—have hitherto been inaccessible to European scientific travellers. At the same time these gigantic mountain-chains which rise from the zone of apricot and granate trees, of rice and of cotton, far beyond the limit of perpetual snows, are perhaps of greater scientific interest than the interior of Africa, with which we are now somewhat acquainted through the bold explorations of Barth, Fogel, Livingstone, and others.

Numerous historical events of remote antiquity connected with the interior of the Asian continent—that cradle of so many tribes and nationalities—could naturally have contributed some information to geographical science, and these testimonies of history have been fully investigated by Klaproth, Ritter, and Humboldt.

Klaproth was the first to show that the Tian-Shan and Kuen-Lun were totally distinct and independent ranges; Ritter systematically arranged and